[Translation]

Grant of Subsidies to Small and Marginal Farmers

1035. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the direct and indirect types of subsidies granted to farmers alongwith their annual effect;

(b) the subsidies out of them granted to small and marginal farmers as well as to relatively poor sections of farmers;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain that the benefit of subsidies reach the targeted population;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which it is ensured that the benefit of the subsidies actually reach to the targeted population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Major agricultural input subsidies given to farmers are fertilizers, irrigation, power and credit subsidy. Direct subsidy on urea is given by the Central Government to manufacturers of fertilizers to enable them to make available the fertilizers at reduced rates to the farmers. Urea is subsidised and sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3660/- per tonne throughout the country. In addition the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing, from Rabi 1992-93, a scheme of concession on sale of phospatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers to the farmers on the following:

Product	Rate of concession from 1.4.1997 (Rs. per tonne)
Indigenous DAP	3750
Imported DAP	2250
MOP	2000
SSP	600
Indigenous complexes	1149-3320

Since there is no mechanism to pay directly to the farmers, the subsidy/concession is routed through the fertilizer supplies. The provision in RE 1996-97 and in BE 1997-98 for the payment of subsidy on urea and concession on P&K fertilisers is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	Subsidy on Urea	Concession on P&K Fertilizers
RE—1996-97	6093	1674
BE—1997-98	7190	2000

Subsidies on irrigation and power are given indirectly by the State Governments charging lower rates than that of actual costs.

All these subsidies/concessions are available to all the categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(c) to (e) No study has been conducted to verify whether such subsidies/concessions reach to the targeted population. However, it is not practically feasible to pay the subsidies/concessions directly to the farmers whose number if nearly 105 million and spread over the length and breadth of the country. All the policy guidelines for payment of subsidies/concessions are done keeping in view the interest of the farmers.

[English]

Representation in CACP

1036. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Maharashtra to appoint at least one State representative in the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the policy of the Government in respect of appointments of the members;

(c) whether the Government have re-constituted the said Commission;

(d) if so, the details of members with their representating States; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the request of the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such request from the Government of Maharashtra to appoint atleast one State representative in the Commission has been received. There is also no policy for appointing atleast one representative from each State.

(c) and (d) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is a permanent body consisting of a full-time Chairman, 3 official Members and 3 non-official Members. The non-official Members are intended to provide representation to the farming community and are normally appointed for a term of 3 years. The vacancies of non-official Members are filled-up as and when they arise and while doing so, an effort is generally made to provide regional balance to all the zones of the country.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to Part (a) of the question above.

Research on Arecanuts by ICAR

1037. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research is undertaking any research work in respect of arecanuts;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the stations where such research work is undertaken;

(c) whether any research has been carried out to ascertain the possibility of other uses of arecanuts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and boost the export of arecanuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research work on arecanut is carried out by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod (Kerala) at its three regional stations located at Vittal (Karnataka), Mohit Nagar (West Bengal) and Kahikuchi (Assam). Arecanut research is also being supported under All India Co-ordinated Research Project at Hirehalli (Karnataka).

(c) and (d) Arecanut research is being concentrated on crop improvement, production technologies and control of diseases and pests. Research on other uses of arecanut is not being done by ICAR.

(e) Four high yielding and superior varieties of arecanut namely Mangla, Sumangala, Sreemangla and Mohit Nagar have been released. These varieties are capable of producing 11 to 18 kg nuts/palm/year and has helped in substantially increasing the productivity of arecanut. The steady increase in area, production and productivity has helped to stop the import from Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Now, India is self sufficient in arecanut.

[Translation]

Allocation of Edible Oil to States

1038. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of edible oils allocated to various States particularly to Maharashtra during 1995-96 and 1996-97, separately;

(b) whether the quantity allocated is adequate to meet the demand of the States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether requests have been received from various States to enhance their quota of the edible oils;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A *statement* is annexed.

(b) and (c) Supply of imported edible oil through the PDS is supplemental. Limited quantity of palmolein is imported and distributed to States/UTs from the Central Pool to augment open market availability during the lean season/major festivals if considered necessary by the Government.

(d) and (e) During the year 1996-97 several States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Manipur, Maharashtra, Orissa & West Bengal had requested Central Government to enhance their monthly quota of imported palmolein for the PDS.

(f) Due to reasons indicated in reply to parts (b) and (c) above, a fixed quantity of edible oil allowed to be